

FIRST MACON COUNTY COURT HOUSE  
DECATUR, ILLINOIS.  
MACON COUNTY.

HABS. NO. ILL-222  
HABS  
ILL,  
58-DECA,  
1-

*Reduced Copies of Measured Drawings*

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
DISTRICT NO. ILL-2

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
• EDGAR E. LUNDEEN - DISTRICT OFFICER •  
CORN BELT BANK BUILDING - BLOOMINGTON ILL.

"FIRST MACON COUNTY COURT HOUSE"  
Decatur, Macon County, Illinois

Custodian. Stephen Decatur Chapter of D.A.R.

Date of Erection. 1829 to 1832.

Architect. None.

Builder. Logs hewn and placed in position by public-spirited citizens. Chinking and daubing by John Hanks.

Present Condition. The building has been kept in good repair, intact as originally built, except the roof. It has been moved, however, to a new site in Fairview Park, Decatur.

Number of Stories. One and one half.

Materials of Construction. Exterior walls are of hewn logs and floors of rough planking. Presumably, the roof was originally hand-split shingles, although a modern composition roll roofing is now on the building.

Other Existing Records. Written data in 'History of Macon County' by John W. Smith--1876 and in the 'History of City of Decatur and Macon County' by Hon. W. E. Nelson.

Additional Data. Construction was started in the latter part of 1829 and completed in 1832. The build-

ing stood on the west half of Lot 4 of the original town of Decatur. It was a typical log structure, twenty feet square, one and a half stories high. It contained two rooms, one above the other.

Although the structure was not an elaborate one, it appears that the work of construction took a long time and taxed the resources of the County to the limit. There is nothing in the records to show that anyone received pay for the first work. It appears that the logs must have been hewn and placed in position by public-spirited citizens. The first expense to the County against this building is shown in the records of the commissioners, where it is stated that John Hanks was allowed \$9.87 for chinking and daubing the court house.

The first court was held in the building in May, 1830. Sometime after this meeting, about \$250.00 was expended to complete the structure, so that it was not really completed until 1832. The last item of expense on the records is for providing glass and shutters for the upper windows, at a cost of \$6.75. The chimney and hearth were added at a cost of \$48.50.

Abraham Lincoln attended court in this building in 1837.

In 1839, this building was removed and a 3-story brick court house was erected, which soon became too small. The present court house was completed in 1891.

The D.A.R. had the old log court house moved to Fairview Park and had their official dedicatory program in 1894.

References:

History of Macon County--John W. Smith, 1876.

History of City of Decatur and Macon County,

Illinois-----Hon. Wm. E. Nelson

(Approved)

Wm. E. Nelson  
District Officer